

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for an application to communicate with a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) software object, in order to communicate with a procedure on a remote server via the Simple Object Access Protocol (~~SOAP~~), comprising the steps of:
- issuing, by the application, a call to initialize ~~[[a]]~~ the SOAP software object request, said initialization including specifying the procedure on the remote server;
 - issuing, by the application, a call to set the body of ~~[[the]]~~ a SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, using a set of parameters to specify said body;
 - issuing, by the application, a call to ~~request that~~ the SOAP software object, in order that the SOAP request be sent to the remote server;
 - issuing, by the application, a call to query the SOAP software object request to obtain status information; and
 - issuing, by the application, a call to query the SOAP software object request to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- issuing, by the application, a call to set a header in the SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, including in said header a value for ~~[[the]]~~ a mustUnderstand attribute~~[[;]]~~.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the call to the SOAP software object, in order ~~request~~ that the SOAP request be sent to the remote server, does not return until either response information is received from the remote server or a set amount of time passes.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the SOAP request is a software object and~~ the issued calls are to methods of the SOAP ~~request~~ software object.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:
- issuing, by the application, a call to instantiate the SOAP ~~request~~ software object.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions that when executed cause a computer to communicate with a procedure on a remote server by performing the steps of:
- initializing a SOAP software object ~~request~~, said initialization including specifying the procedure on the remote server;
 - setting the body of ~~[[the]]~~ a SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, using a set of parameters to specify said body;
 - causing the SOAP software object to send ~~sending~~ the SOAP request to the remote server; and
 - querying the SOAP software object ~~request~~ to obtain status and response information.
7. (Currently amended) A system for using SOAP to communicate with a server application on a remote host comprising:
- a local host;
 - a client application running on the local host;
 - a communications link connecting the local host with the remote host; and
 - a set of functions running on the local host callable by the client application to use a SOAP software object to specify a SOAP request, to send the SOAP request to the remote host via the communications link, and to obtain status and response information concerning the SOAP request.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the set of functions is an application programming interface (API).
9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein information passed through the API is in the form of parameters.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the API consists essentially of software objects.

11. (Currently amended) An API presented by an operating system comprising a software object into which the fields of a SOAP request can be written and which supports methods of the software object for requesting that the SOAP request be sent to a remote server, for retrieving response information sent from the remote server, and for retrieving status information about the SOAP request.
12. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions that when executed cause an operating system to present an API comprising a software object into which [[the]] fields of a SOAP request can be written and which supports methods of the software object for requesting that the SOAP request be sent to a remote server, for retrieving response information sent from the remote server, and for retrieving status information about the SOAP request.
13. (Currently amended) A method for communicating with a procedure on a remote server via SOAP, the method comprising:
- initializing a SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~, the initializing comprising specifying the procedure on the remote server;
 - using a set of parameters to specify a body of a SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~;
 - calling the SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~ to request that [[a]] the SOAP request message be sent to the remote server;
 - querying the SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~ to obtain status information; and
 - querying the SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~ to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
- setting a header in the SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object ~~Request Software Object~~, the setting of a header comprising including in the header a value for a mustUnderstand attribute[[:]].

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the calling to request that a SOAP request message be sent to the remote server does not return until either response information is received from the remote server or until a set amount of time passes.
16. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for communicating with a procedure on a remote server via SOAP, the method comprising:
- initializing a SOAP software object ~~Request-Software-Object~~, the initializing comprising specifying the procedure on the remote server;
 - using a set of parameters to specify a body of a SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object ~~Request-Software-Object~~;
 - calling the SOAP software object ~~Request-Software-Object~~ to request that [[a]] the SOAP request message be sent to the remote server;
 - querying the SOAP software object ~~Request-Software-Object~~ to obtain status information; and
 - querying the SOAP software object ~~Request-Software-Object~~ to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.

17. (Canceled)
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